

## **Quil Lawrence**

BBC correspondent David Aquila Lawrence or "Quil" as he's been known since birth grew up in the woods of Maine. After many years supporting a passion for travel and writing, he finally found his way to journalism in 1996, writing his first pieces from Morocco for The Toronto Globe and Mail and Christian Science Monitor Radio.

Quil moved to Bogotá, Colombia in 1996, working for the Los Angeles Times, NPR and the BBC among others. For three years he reported on the Andean region, using Colombia as a base. Before joining The World as Latin America correspondent in 2000, he free-lanced from Cuba, Sudan, and Morocco. In spring of 2000 a Pew Fellowship took Quil to Iraq, Northern Iraq (Kurdistan), Jordan and Syria.

Quil's reports from Sudan won the 2001 Harry Chapin Media Judges' Award. Filing from the Nuba Mountains, he reported how the 18-year civil war led to starvation and a breakdown of local infrastructure. He accompanied an unauthorized relief operation behind rebel lines, spoke with Sudanese civilians and rebel soldiers, and followed the efforts of Red Cross doctors to treat war casualties in a hospital just across the border in Kenya.

Quil covered Afghanistan in the days after the fall of the Taliban, as well as the Loya Jirga later that year. In 2003 he returned to Northern Iraq to cover the US invasion. He crossed the mountains from Iran in a January blizzard, and stayed in the Kurdish controlled North throughout the war. Quil continues to visit Iraq and Afghanistan for The World.

Quil is now based in Washington, D.C. He is a jazz fan, an amateur stone mason, and an aspiring bluegrass musician.